

are certainly quite as heavy, and as broad at the points, as those of the Griffon, but when the bird is circling they show rather more curve at the shoulder; a light spot towards the ends of the quills, the warm reddish breast, and the white head were very conspicuous from below. The form, however, was that of a Vulture; though this bird is at once distinguished from any other species by its tail, which is very long and continues broadening out for fully half its length, from which point it narrows away to the sharp cuneate tip.

This completes my winter's notes, for a subsequent expedition to the marisma produced nothing more of novelty or interest than has already been described. The results, I am painfully aware, are meagre, in view of the ornithological wealth of Southern Spain, and the exceptional opportunities which, through the kindness of my friends in Jerez, I have enjoyed for its exploration. The adverse weather is an extenuating circumstance; and in Spain a wet season signifies more than words can convey, creating obstacles and difficulties which must be seen to be believed.

XLVIII.—*On the Birds of Lomas de Zamora, Buenos Aires, Argentine Republic.* By FRANK WITHINGTON.
With Notes by P. L. SCLATER*.

LOMAS DE ZAMORA is one of the many subdivisions, or Partidos, as they are here called, into which the Province of Buenos Aires is divided. It is some eight square leagues in area, consisting of more or less rich and fertile pasture lands, and, with the exception of an almost imperceptible undulation

* [Mr. Withington has most kindly placed at my disposal the specimens upon which these notes are based. They are 150 in number, and are referable to 92 species. I have inserted the scientific name of each species, according to the numbers attached to the specimens in Mr. Withington's MS., and have appended a few notes where necessary.

As might have been expected, most of the species are well known inhabitants of this district, but there are several of much interest, *e. g.*, *Agriornis striata*, *Pachyrhamphus polychropterus*, *Coccyzus americanus*, *Buteo swainsoni*, and the typical form of *Falco peregrinus*.—P. L. S.]

in some parts, is perfectly flat. It cannot be called well wooded, as the only trees to be seen at all are those of orchards and other similar plantations on a small scale. By far the most common tree throughout the district is the Tala (*Celtis tala*), which, when kept close cut, makes excellent hedges, and forms the favourite nesting-places of many kinds of birds, especially such bush-loving species as the Calandria (*Mimus calandria*) and Uracca (*Guirapirigua*), &c. There are three small "arroyos" or creeks which flow in a northerly direction, and end in "lagunas" or lakelets of insignificant size, and generally overgrown with reeds and other aquatic vegetation. In these and other localities the following birds were collected.

+ 1. *TURDUS LEUCOMELAS*, Vieill.

Fairly plentiful during winter and spring. They chiefly frequent dark woods and undergrowth, where they step about noiselessly, now and then uttering their somewhat pleasant low whistling note.

+ 2. *TURDUS RUFIVENTRIS*, Vieill.

Very rare. I have only seen two examples altogether. One of these, the present specimen, I shot in a small wood, whence it attracted me by its sweet song. It was very tame, and showed none of that skulking shyness which I noticed in this species in the Banda Oriental. It swarmed with lice, and from its throat I took a large tick.

+ 3. *MIMUS MODULATOR*, Gould.

[Two specimens of this species.—P. L. S.]

4. *TANAGRA BONARIENSIS* (Gm.).

Migratory, arriving here about the middle of May, when they become fairly plentiful. They are often seen in small lots of five or six, but generally more of them are males than females. They are very partial to gardens and plantations.

+ 5. *PYRANGA AZARÆ*, d'Orb.

At one time fairly common, but these last few years I have only noticed stragglers here and there.

6. *POOSPIZA NIGRO-RUFA* (d'Orb. et Lafr.).

Fairly common in woods and such places, where there is much undergrowth. The Napuidary (*Acacia bonariensis*), for instance, is a favourite resort of the bird. I have never known it breed here.

7. *DONACOSPIZA ALBIFRONS* (Vieill.).

Not common, but breeds here. I have taken the nest on several occasions.

8. *EMBERNAGRA PLATENSIS* (Gm.).

Plentiful. I have never known it nest here.

9. *EMBERNAGRA OLIVASCENS* (d'Orb. et Lafr.).

Common in the vicinity of lagunas and arroyos (creeks), where it may be seen seated on some post of a wire fence or aquatic plant, feeding on a species of mollusk which appears to be its chief food. It does not breed here.

+ 10. *MOLOTHRUS BONARIENSIS* (Gm.).

Very common. A downright parasite; it does not seem specially partial to any particular kind of bird. I have taken eggs from nests of species of *Furnarius*, *Anumbius*, *Troglodytes*, *Mimus*, *Milvulus*, *Zonotrichia*, and from those of several other species.

+ 11. *AGELÆUS THILIUS* (Mol.).

Fairly abundant. Breeds in the reed-covered lagunas, and lays three white eggs spotted with black.

12. *AGELÆUS FLAVUS* (Gm.).

[A pair of this species.—P. L. S.]

+ 13. *LEISTES SUPERCILIARIS*, Bp.

[A young bird of this species, apparently not distinguished from *Trupialis defilippii*.—P. L. S.]

+ 14. *AMBLYRHAMPHUS HOLOSERICEUS*.

[A single adult of this species, from "an aviary."—P. L. S.]

15. *PSEUDOLEISTES VIRESCENS* (Vieill.).

Abundant: seen in large flocks feeding in the open camps. In some districts it frequents fields of green maize

or Indian corn, where it does a considerable amount of damage by eating the tender grains of the new cob. I have never found it nesting here.

16. *TRUPIALIS DEFILIPPII*, Bp.

Very common, goes in large flocks and frequents open land. Breeds in the long grass. Two nests lately found had each three eggs, and both of them contained also eggs of *Molothrus bonariensis*.

17. *AGRIORNIS STRIATA*, Gould.

Very rare. The two examples sent herewith are the only ones I have ever shot, nor do I remember having seen others.

[One of these is a male, obtained 30th June, 1883, the other a female, obtained 29th April, 1884. The "iris" is marked "brown" in both specimens.—P. L. S.]

18. *MYIOTHERETES RUFIVENTRIS* (Vieill.).

Seen in flocks of from ten to twenty, frequenting the open camp during winter. As a rule they are very tame, and I have several times noticed that when one is shot out of the flock, many of the others instead of flying away, surround it and attack it, until fired at again. These birds appeared to me exceedingly tenacious of life, and hard to bring to bag; it may have been my bad shooting, but I have never observed it in such a marked degree in any other bird.

19. *TÆNIOPTERA NENGETA* (Linn.).

[A single specimen in the collection: iris noted as "bright scarlet."—P. L. S.]

20. *TÆNIOPTERA CORONATA* (Vieill.).

A migratory species which visits us during the winter, when it is not uncommon. It may often be seen sitting on wire fences and dried thistle-stalks, every now and again taking short rapid flights after some insect, and returning to its former perch.

21. *TÆNIOPTERA DOMINICANA* (Vieill.).

[Examples of both sexes of this species are in the collection. Iris "dark brown."—P. L. S.]

22. TÆNIOPTERA IRUPERO (Vieill.).

Uncommon. A few are generally seen during the winter. It does not breed with us.

23. TÆNIOPTERA RUBETRA, Burm.

[Specimens of both sexes.—P. L. S.]

24. ALECTRURUS RISORIUS (Vieill.).

[A single immature bird.—P. L. S.]

25. SISOPYGIS ICTEROPHRYX (Vieill.).

Not common. I took one egg believed to be of this species from a nest of *Columbula picui*, in which there were two eggs of the rightful owner.

26. LICHENOPS PERSPICILLATUS (Gm.).

Partly migratory; during the summer it is fairly abundant and breeds here, but as I have not taken the nest for several years, I can offer no further remarks thereon.

27. MACHETORNIS RIXOSA (Vieill.).

Common and usually seen in pairs. It lays its eggs in the deserted nests of other birds, but sometimes builds a nest for itself in an ivy-covered tree. It lays from three to four eggs.

28. MUSCI SAXICOLA MACLOVIANA (Garn.).

Very abundant everywhere. It breeds with us and lays three or four eggs.

29. CENTRITES NIGER (Bodd.).

Fairly common, only found in open land and on marshy ground. I never heard of its breeding here.

+ 30. ELAINEA ALBICEPS (d'Orb. et Lafr.).

Migratory; in summer fairly plentiful and breeds here, but I have never been able to take the nest.

+ 31. PITANGUS BOLIVIANUS (Lafr.).

Very common. Breeds in hedges and in almost any situation. Its nest is a shapeless mass of sticks, grass, wool, hair, and feathers, profusely lined with feathers; the entrance is placed rather high up on the side. The bird lays from three to five eggs, of a creamy-yellow colour

blotched with reddish brown, the blotches being some large and some small.

+ 32. *PYROCEPHALUS RUBINEUS* (Bodd.).

This bird arrives early in September and becomes very abundant. It generally selects a forked branch as the situation for its nest, seldom more than ten feet from the ground, and oftener much less. It never lays more than three eggs. It departs about the end of April.

+ 33. *TYRANNUS MELANCHOLICUS* (Vieill.).

Fairly plentiful in the wooded districts. I never knew it breed here.

+ 34. *MILVULUS TYRANNUS* (Linn.).

Migratory, appearing about the middle of September and beginning to breed in October. The nest is generally placed in tala-trees, about six or eight feet from the ground. One now before me is composed of twigs, fibrous roots, grass, and the down of thistles. Wool is sometimes used instead of thistle-down. This bird generally lays four eggs, but often not more than three.

35. *PACHYRHAMPHUS POLYCHROPTERUS* (Vieill.).

[A pair of this species, killed February 1st, 1886.—P. L. S.]

The only examples of this species I have met with in this part of the world, though I have lately noticed it fairly plentiful in Santa Fé. Both specimens were sitting together on a small tree in a thick wood when I shot them. The contents of the stomach were what I took for the fruit of the Ombu (*Phytolacca dioica*), but it was too far digested to make certain of. There were no signs of insect food whatsoever.

36. *PHYTOTOMA RUTILA* (Vieill.).

[Two males of this species : iris "orange."—P. L. S.]

37. *UPUCERTHIA DUMETORIA* (Geoffr. et d'Orb.).

This is a rare bird with us. I once took three young from a nest in a hole under a bridge over which there was constantly a great deal of traffic. I may add that the hole was not made by the birds.

38. *FURNARIUS RUFUS* (Gm.).

[A pair of this species.—P. L. S.]

39. *CINCLODES FUSCUS* (Vieill.).

[A single specimen.—P. L. S.]

† 40. *SYNALLAXIS SPIXI*, Sel.

Uncommon. I have found only one nest of this species in these parts. This was built in a small tala-bush, and was composed of sticks and twigs, and completely covered over. It contained three small greenish-white eggs.

† 41. *SYNALLAXIS SORDIDA*, Less.

[A single female of this species.—P. L. S.]

42. *PHACELLODOMUS STRIATICOLLIS* (d'Orb. et Lafr.).

A resident species and very common. It chiefly frequents hedges and thick bushes, where it is seen creeping about, now and then uttering a peculiar sharp piping note. The nest is usually placed on a projecting branch of a tala-hedge or other small bush, and contains from three to five eggs.

[This species is erroneously referred to *P. ruber*, in 'Argentine Ornithology' (i. p. 194). Since the volume was issued I have had an opportunity of examining d'Orbigny's specimens of *P. ruber* and *P. striaticollis*, and have ascertained that the ordinary species of the Argentine Republic which I have always supposed to be *P. ruber* is his *P. striaticollis*. Mr. Hudson's notes (Arg. Orn. i. p. 194) under *P. ruber* therefore really refer to this species.—P. L. S.]

† 43. *ANTROSTOMUS PARVULUS* (Gould).

Migratory. Visits us in the summer, where it is fairly abundant. It is seldom seen during the day except when disturbed from its slumbers from under some bush or hedge. I have never known it breed here.

† 44. *PICUS MIXTUS*, Bodd.

By no means a common species. A few are now and then seen in the woods climbing about the trees in the most unconcerned manner. I have never taken the eggs, but have found several old nests.

45. *CHRYSOPTILUS CRISTATUS* (Vieill.).

A great rarity in these parts; this specimen (shot June 6th, 1887) is the only example of the species I have obtained here.

+ 46. *COLAPTES AGRICOLA*, Malh.

Two females of this species.

+ 47. *CERYLE TORQUATA* (Linn.).

This is the only specimen of this bird I have seen in the district. It was found perched on a willow branch overhanging a small stream.

48. *GUIRA PIRIRIGUA* (Vieill.).

Common. Often lays in the old nests of the Chimango (*Milvago chimango*). They are polygamous, and I have taken as many as twenty eggs out of one nest.

+ 49. *COCCYZUS AMERICANUS* (Linn.).

[A single specimen, obtained 28th January, 1886, undoubtedly belongs to this North-American species, of which the occasional occurrence in the Argentine Republic was already known to us. See notice P. Z. S. 1872, p. 496.—P. L. S.]

+ 50. *COCCYZUS MELANOCORYPHUS*, Vieill.

[Several examples of this species.—P. L. S.]

+ 51. *COCCYZUS CINEREUS*, Vieill.

Fairly common, appearing about end of October and beginning to breed soon afterwards. The nest is placed in hedges, about eight feet from the ground, and its structure resembles that of *Coccyzus melanocoryphus*. Although I have several times found the nest I have only once seen the eggs, which were quite white.

+ 52. *STRIX FLAMMEA*, Linn.

[One skin of this well-known bird, belonging to the subspecies *perlata*.—P. L. S.]

+ 53. *ASIO BRACHYOTUS* (Forster).

Very common. In summer evenings scores of these birds are seen hawking over the long grass fields after their prey, which consists of mice, beetles, &c. The nest is generally

placed under thistles or in long grass. It contains from four to five eggs, white, and somewhat elliptical in shape.

+ 54. *SPEOTYTO CUNICULARIA* (Mol.).

Very abundant. Always seen sitting in pairs, either on the posts of wire fencing or outside their burrows. The usual clutch of eggs is five, but I have taken as many as seven from one nest.

+ 55. *CIRCUS CINEREUS*, Vieill.

Common. In winter large flocks of these birds frequent the open camps, feeding in the long grass, returning again towards evening to the lagunas and swamps, where they pass the night. It does not breed with us.

+ 56. *ASTURINA PUCHERANI*, Scl. et Salv.

I have only seen one example of this species, which I shot; the contents of its stomach were small birds, mice, and insects.

+ 57. *BUTEO SWAINSONI*, Bp.

One shot out of a large flock on Feb. 4th, 1886. For several evenings in succession large flocks of these birds flew over the house, and settled on the trees in the garden, apparently much exhausted. The majority remained until next morning. They came from the south-west, and flew away towards the north.

[On the occurrence of this species in South America, cf. Salvin, *Ibis*, 1875, p. 372.—P. L. S.]

+ 58. *BUTEO ALBICAUDATUS* (Vieill.).

At one time fairly common, but the last few years I have only noticed odd ones here and there.

+ 59. *BUTEO ERYTHRONOTUS* (King).

Not common, though a few examples are usually seen during the winter months. The food is mice and a small species of cavy. It does not breed here.

+ 60. *URUBITINGA UNICINCTA* (Temm.).

Not common, but breeds here. I have taken the nest on several occasions.

+ 61. *FALCO PEREGRINUS*, Linn.

Very uncommon. For several years a pair of these birds frequented the district, and were generally seen perched on a dead willow tree. They were very shy, and it was only after continually hunting after them that on the 24th of November, 1886, I finally succeeded in obtaining one of them, an adult female. Their flight is rapid and powerful, the food small birds.

[The specimen is a typical *F. peregrinus*, and not one of the dark southern form (*F. cassini*) usually met with in South America.—P. L. S.]

+ 62. *HYPOTRIORCHIS FEMORALIS* (Temm.).

[A single example.—P. L. S.]

+ 63. *TINNUNCULUS CINNAMOMINUS* (Sw.).

Plentiful. I have never known it nest here.

+ 64. *ROSTRHAMUS SOCIABILIS* (Vieill.).

[One example.—P. L. S.]

+ 65. *ELANUS LEUCURUS* (Vieill.).

Fairly plentiful. I have twice taken the nest of this bird, and on other occasions found unfinished ones. All these nests were placed in small isolated tala-trees, and I may mention that I never saw the nest built in a hedgerow of any sort. One of the nests contained four eggs, the other, if I remember rightly, three.

+ 66. *MILVAGO CHIMANGO* (Vieill.).

[One example of this well-known species.—P. L. S.]

+ 67. *ARDEA COCOI* (Linn.).

Plentiful. A few are generally seen standing knee-deep in the arroyos. The present specimen was killed with a walking-stick as it flew from the ground after vomiting a large fish which it had just swallowed. The latter measured in length 15 inches, in girth $9\frac{1}{2}$.

+ 68. *ARDETTA INVOLUCRIS* (Vieill.).

Plentiful in the reed-covered lagunas, where it breeds. The nest is simply a few pieces of reeds and stalks of grass, placed one on the top of another. It is somewhat triangular

in shape, with a very slight hollow in the middle, where the eggs, generally four in number, are laid.

+69. *BUTORIDES CYANURUS* (Vieill.).

Rather uncommon. I have only seen it two or three times altogether, and have never known it nest here. Frequents the reed-covered lagunas.

+70. *NYCTICORAX OBSCURUS*, Bp.

[An immature specimen, probably referable to this species.—P. L. S.]

+71. *PLEGADIS GUARAUNA* (Linn.).

[An immature specimen, apparently of this species.—P. L. S.]

72. *CYGNUS COSCOROBA*, Mol.

Fairly abundant; usually seen in small flocks of six or eight, about lagunas and other large sheets of water.

+73. *MARECA CHILOENSIS* (King).

Common during winter. It is migratory.

+74. *RALLUS MACULATUS*, Bodd.

Very common in all the lagunas and arroyos where there is cover. It breeds amongst the reeds, and its nest is placed about eighteen inches from the water. To reach it the birds collect a heap of reeds, grass, and other materials, and alongside form an inclined platform that answers the purpose of a staircase, by which the birds ascend or descend with ease. The usual clutch of eggs is seven, but I have taken fifteen from one nest, all good. These, of course, could not have been laid by one bird.

+75. *RALLUS ANTARCTICUS*, King.

This is the only example of this bird I have seen. It was killed by my dogs in a swamp, in June 1884.

+76. *RALLUS RHYTIRHYNCHUS*, Vieill.

[A single skin of this Rail, obtained in November 1886.—P. L. S.]

+77. *FULICA ARMILLATA*, Vieill.

+78. *FULICA LEUCOPYGIA* (Hartl.).

+79. *FULICA LEUCOPTERA*, Vieill.

[Mr. Withington sends skins of all these three species, unfortunately without remarks.—P. L. S.]

80. *CHARADRIUS VIRGINICUS*, Borck.

In the autumn large flocks of these birds may be seen feeding on the open camps and near lagunas and swamps. These birds are generally tame, and allow one to approach them quite near.

81. *EUDROMIAS MODESTA* (Licht.).

Abundant in the marshes and swamps, where they are found in small flocks of from ten to fifteen individuals. They are tame but when flushed fly very fast, and are not easy to shoot.

+82. *GALLINAGO PARAGUAIÆ* (Vieill.).

Very abundant in the swamps and marshes. I have only taken one nest, which consists of a slight hollow scraped in the ground with a little grass as a lining. It was situated near a ditch of running water, and contained three hard-set eggs.

83. *RHYNCHÆA SEMICOLLARIS* (Vieill.).

Abundant in marshes and swampy places. I have never found its nest.

84. *GAMBETTA MELANOLEUCA* (Gm.).

A few of these birds are always to be seen about the lagunas.

85. *ACTITURUS BARTRAMIUS* (Wilson).

During autumn this species is very plentiful, and is generally seen in small flocks of from five to twenty. It does not breed here.

86. *LARUS DOMINICANUS*, Licht.

Fairly plentiful.

87. *LARUS MACULIPENNIS*, Licht.

Very abundant, and like the preceding species (*L. dominicanus*) frequents the vicinity of slaughter-houses, and feeds largely on carrion.

†88. *ÆCMOPHORUS MAJOR* (Bodd.).

Not very common: it is generally found in the lagunas, but sometimes comes down to the arroyos.

†89. *TACHYBAPTES DOMINICUS* (Linn.).

[One skin of this widely-spread Grebe.—P. L. S.]

†90. *PODILYMBUS PODICEPS* (Linn.).

This Grebe is plentiful and breeds in the reeds of the lagunas. The nest is simply a heap of rubbish placed amongst the reeds, and the eggs are almost on a level with the water. The clutch is four or five; all the eggs I have taken were very much stained, but they were quite fresh.

91. *RHYNCHOTIS RUFESCENS* (Temm.).

[One skin of this species is in the collection.—P. L. S.]

92. *NOTHURA MACULOSA* (Temm.).

Very numerous in the tall grass-covered camps. The nest is placed either in long grass or under thistles, and usually contains from five to ten eggs; but five is the normal clutch, and if there are any more in one nest, they will probably have been laid by more than one bird.

XLIX.—On the Identity of *Ibis propinqua* with *Ibis melanocephala*. By HENRY SEEBOHM.

THE following are the synonyms of *Ibis melanocephala*:—

Tantalus melanocephalus, Latham, Index Orn. ii. p. 709 (1790).

Ibis melanocephala (Lath.), Vieillot, N. Dict. Hist. Nat. xvi. p. 23 (1817).

Ibis macei, Wagler, Syst. Av. p. 368 (1827).

Ibis leucon, Temminck, Pl. Col. No. 481 (1829).

Ibis bengala, Cuvier, Règne An. i. p. 520 (1829).

Ibis aimolene, Hodgson, Gray's Zool. Misc. p. 86 (1844).

Geronticus melanocephalus (Lath.), Gray, Genera Birds, iii. p. 566 (1847).

Threskiornis melanocephalus (Lath.), Blyth, Cat. Birds Mus. As. Soc. p. 275 (1849).

Ibis propinqua, Swinhoe, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1870, p. 428.

Swinhoe was perfectly justified at the time in supposing